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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 16, 2004
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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

2001 Census topic-based tabulations

Additional topic-based tabulations for the "Canada's Workforce: Paid Work" topic at the Canada, provinces, territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations levels of geography, are available online at no cost.

From the *Census* page, choose *Data*, then *Topic-based tabulations*.

For more information, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

January 2004

Although shipments edged down 0.2% to $45.5 billion in January, manufacturers saw some positive signals during the month. New orders rose for the second consecutive month, while inventories increased for the second time in the last nine months.

Thirteen of the 21 manufacturing industries, accounting for 43% of total shipments, reported decreases in January. Although the decline was concentrated in the big-ticket, durable goods sector (-1.2%), this was largely offset by rising industrial prices and higher nondurable goods manufacturing (+1.3%).

Shipments by province and territory

	December 2003	January 2004	December 2003 to January 2004
	seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	259	254	-1.6
Prince Edward Island	116	112	-3.1
Nova Scotia	705	723	2.6
New Brunswick	1,121	996	-11.1
Quebec	10,727	10,811	0.8
Ontario	24,005	23,905	-0.4
Manitoba	1,000	972	-2.8
Saskatchewan	678	689	1.6
Alberta	3,862	3,917	1.4
British Columbia	3,079	3,095	0.5
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	8	8	-2.8

Provincial shipments a mixed bag

Provincial movement of shipments was a mixed bag in January, as five provinces and the territories showed lower shipments while the other five provinces reported gains. The largest decline was in New Brunswick, where shipments fell 11.1% (-$124 million) to $996 million, following consecutive gains in November and December.

Ontario manufacturers posted a 0.4% (-$100 million) decline in shipments to $23.9 billion. Widespread decreases were reported in the computer, fabricated metal products and miscellaneous industries, which offset gains in petroleum and food manufacturing.

Quebec and Alberta led the five provinces reporting higher shipments in January. Increases in Quebec's food and petroleum industries contributed to a 0.8% (+$84 million) rise in shipments to $10.8 billion, the highest level since February 2003. Meanwhile, escalating petroleum prices boosted total shipments in Alberta by 1.4% (+$56 million) to $3.9 billion.

Note to readers

With the January 2004 release, estimates of shipments, inventories and orders have been revised back to January 1999. Although the historical month-to-month movements were preserved, there were adjustments made to the levels of the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing (MSM).

These adjustments were due to several factors: the use of new and revised data; updates to the industrial classification (NAICS); the updating of the seasonal adjustment factors; and most significantly, the benchmarking of the MSM to the 2000 and 2001 Annual Survey of Manufactures levels.

The average level of adjustment for shipments from reference year 1999 to 2003 was +5.5%.

***Non-durable goods industries** include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, clothing, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals and plastic and rubber products.*

***Durable goods industries** include wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliance and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.*

***Unfilled orders** are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the orders are not cancelled.*

***New orders** are those received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Readers should take note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.*

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

Canada's loonie continues to strengthen

In January, the Canadian dollar continued its ascent against the weakened value of the US greenback. Manufacturers, many of which are reliant on export markets to sell their products, seem to be holding their own in terms of manufacturing activity, despite the higher costs associated with the rising dollar.

The majority of manufacturers remained cautiously optimistic regarding the outlook for the first quarter of 2004. According to the Business Conditions Survey for January, business confidence was improving, as 30% of manufacturers anticipated that they would increase production in the first quarter.

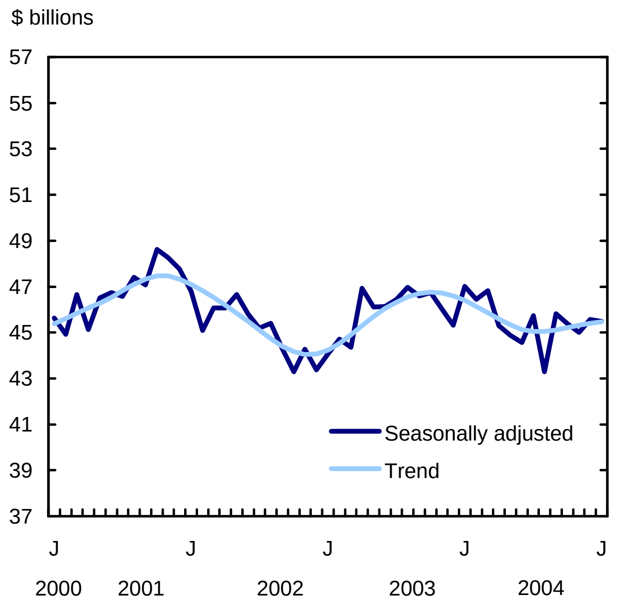
In addition, the rate of capacity utilization in manufacturing surged by 2.1 percentage points, reaching 84.0% in the fourth quarter of 2003. This followed four consecutive quarterly declines.

On the job front, weaknesses in manufacturing have continued in recent months. According to the Labour Force Survey for February, employment was little changed (-12,000) for the third consecutive month.

A wide range of manufacturers report lower shipments

Fabricated metal products (-5.2%), computer and electronic products (-6.4%) and miscellaneous (-12.8%) manufacturing were among the majority of industries reporting fewer shipments in January.

Manufacturing shipments contract slightly



Manufacturers of fabricated metal products reported shipments of $2.5 billion in January, the second decrease in the last three months. Despite the recent declines, the trend for this industry has been positive since the summer of 2003.

Shipments of computer and electronic products fell to $1.5 billion in January, after a 0.2% decrease in December. The two consecutive declines follow a period of improved production in the latter half of 2003, and are in sharp contrast to the industry's counterparts in the United States. Computer manufacturing in the United States has been on the rebound throughout 2003 and into 2004.

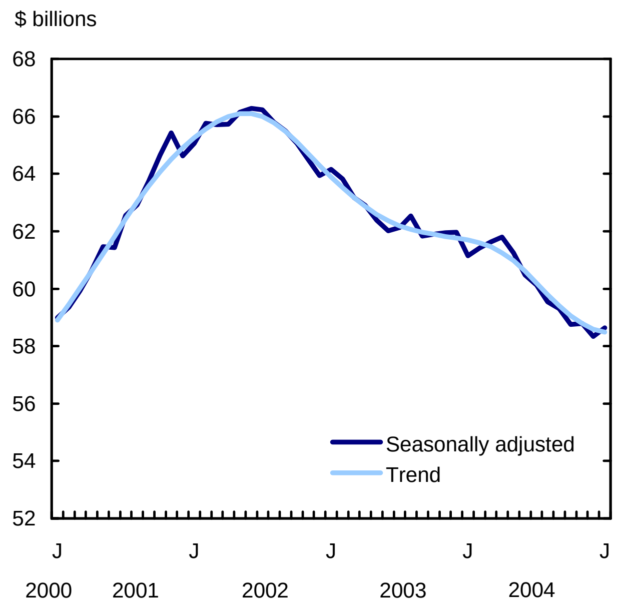
Manufacturers of medical equipment, jewellery and sporting goods contributed a 12.8% drop in miscellaneous manufacturing, wiping out December's 11.0% gain. Shipments stood at $589 million for the month.

Meanwhile, higher petroleum prices and food shipments generally offset the declines of January. Petroleum prices soared 5.4% during the month. This largely contributed to a 6.5% jump in shipments of petroleum and coal products to $3.2 billion, a 10-month high. Food manufacturing contributed to a 3.6% rise in shipments to $5.6 billion.

Higher raw materials boost inventories

Manufacturers' inventories rose 0.5% to $58.6 billion in January. This is only the second increase in inventories since their recent high of $61.8 billion in April 2003.

Inventories rise in January



January's increase was primarily concentrated in inventories of raw materials (+1.1%), a sign manufacturers may be stocking up in anticipation of future production. Inventories of goods-in-process ($13.2 billion) and finished-products ($20.1 billion) both edged up 0.1%. This marked the first increase of finished-product inventories in nine months.

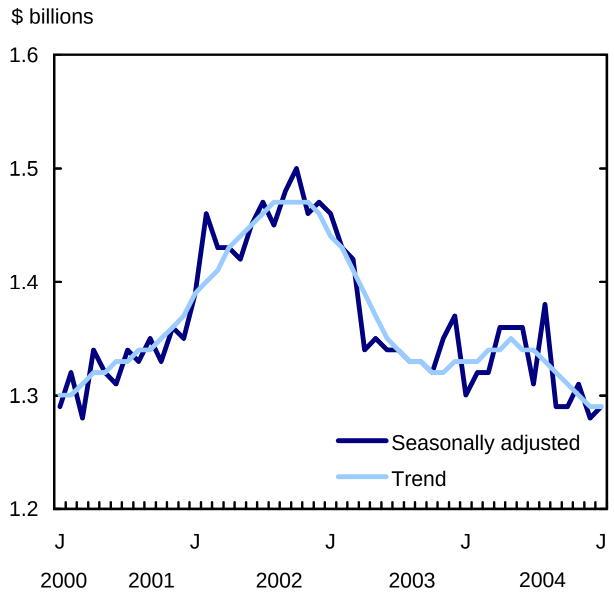
A number of industries contributed to January's rise in inventories, including primary metals (+2.8%), fabricated metal products (+3.1%) and chemical products (+1.7%).

Rising inventories push up the inventory-to-shipments ratio

January's inventory-to-shipments ratio stood at 1.29, marginally up from December's 1.28. Since the spring of 2003, the ratio had been generally moving down, which coincided with manufacturers' recent efforts to reduce inventory levels.

The ratio is a key measure of the time that would be required in order to exhaust inventories if shipments were to remain at their current level.

The inventory-to-shipment ratio edges up



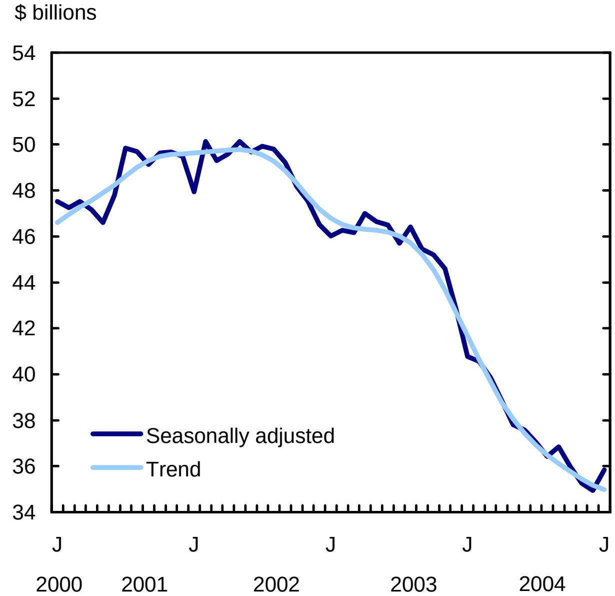
Manufacturers continue to receive new orders

New orders received in January jumped 2.5% to $46.4 billion, following a healthy gain of 2.1% in December. An indication of future production, new orders are at the highest level since October 2002. The transportation equipment and computer industries were primarily responsible for the increase.

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders rose 2.6% to $35.8 billion in January, the first increase since September. Over the last couple of years, manufacturers have been beset by weaker demand in various industries. More than $10 billion has been cut from unfilled orders since January 2002 ($46.0 billion).

New contracts contributed to a 2.3% boost in unfilled orders for the transportation equipment industry. Orders were $18.3 billion, the highest since October. Computer manufacturers also rebounded in January following a weak fourth quarter of 2003, as unfilled orders jumped 8.0% to $3.4 billion.

Unfilled orders improve in January



Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014 and 304-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

The January 2004 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XIE, $17/$158) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request.

All data are benchmarked to the 2001 Annual Survey of Manufactures.

Data for February from the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on April 15.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Russell Kowaluk

(613-951-0600; *kowarus@statcan.ca*) or Daniela Ravindra (613-951-3514; *ravidan@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventory-to-shipment ratio
	seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
January 2003	47,018	3.7	61,142	-1.3	40,770	-4.8	44,959	3.2	1.30
February 2003	46,450	-1.2	61,410	0.4	40,559	-0.5	46,239	2.8	1.32
March 2003	46,832	0.8	61,625	0.4	39,853	-1.7	46,126	-0.2	1.32
April 2003	45,287	-3.3	61,789	0.3	38,866	-2.5	44,300	-4.0	1.36
May 2003	44,879	-0.9	61,243	-0.9	37,811	-2.7	43,824	-1.1	1.36
June 2003	44,569	-0.7	60,481	-1.2	37,576	-0.6	44,335	1.2	1.36
July 2003	45,735	2.6	60,129	-0.6	37,020	-1.5	45,179	1.9	1.31
August 2003	43,290	-5.3	59,541	-1.0	36,433	-1.6	42,702	-5.5	1.38
September 2003	45,818	5.8	59,307	-0.4	36,838	1.1	46,223	8.2	1.29
October 2003	45,373	-1.0	58,748	-0.9	35,984	-2.3	44,519	-3.7	1.29
November 2003	45,005	-0.8	58,779	0.1	35,263	-2.0	44,285	-0.5	1.31
December 2003	45,559	1.2	58,333	-0.8	34,936	-0.9	45,232	2.1	1.28
January 2004	45,483	-0.2	58,632	0.5	35,831	2.6	46,379	2.5	1.29

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
January 2003	38,240	1.6	58,009	-1.0	39,044	-5.0	36,184	0.7
February 2003	37,835	-1.1	58,255	0.4	38,848	-0.5	37,639	4.0
March 2003	37,918	0.2	58,460	0.4	38,174	-1.7	37,243	-1.1
April 2003	36,760	-3.1	58,565	0.2	37,221	-2.5	35,808	-3.9
May 2003	36,382	-1.0	58,053	-0.9	36,223	-2.7	35,383	-1.2
June 2003	36,263	-0.3	57,338	-1.2	35,984	-0.7	36,024	1.8
July 2003	36,823	1.5	56,984	-0.6	35,446	-1.5	36,285	0.7
August 2003	35,982	-2.3	56,508	-0.8	34,819	-1.8	35,356	-2.6
September 2003	37,482	4.2	56,143	-0.6	35,213	1.1	37,876	7.1
October 2003	37,087	-1.1	55,638	-0.9	34,303	-2.6	36,177	-4.5
November 2003	37,012	-0.2	55,690	0.1	33,551	-2.2	36,260	0.2
December 2003	37,341	0.9	55,261	-0.8	33,180	-1.1	36,970	2.0
January 2004	37,283	-0.2	55,592	0.6	34,102	2.8	38,205	3.3

■

OTHER RELEASES

Small area retail trade estimates

2001

Small area retail trade estimates for sales and number of stores are now available for 2001.

Small area data are tabulated by Canada Post geographic areas. For urban delivery areas, the estimates are available at the forward sortation area level (the first three digits of the postal code). For rural areas, estimates are available at the six-digit postal code level.

Estimates within these geographic areas are based on the North American Industry Classification System. Data are available to the five-digit level of industrial detail, subject to confidentiality.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2447.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

January 2004 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for January. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Energy, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

November 2003

The November 2003 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's website (*http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm*).

Note: The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (those with NAV CANADA air-traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (those without air-traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; *rajanis@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat: A Weekly Review, March 16, 2004
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE ($100).

Industry Price Indexes, January 2004, Vol. 30, no. 1
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE ($19/$175).

Industry Price Indexes, January 2004, Vol. 30, no. 1
Catalogue number 62-011-XPE ($24/$233).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, January 2004, Vol. 76, no. 1
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB ($14/$133).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or –XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or –XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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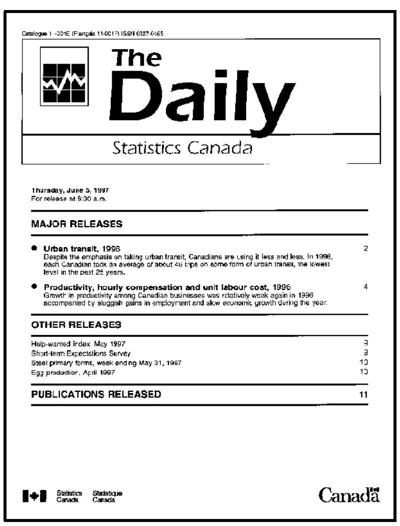
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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